

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-10 are pending.

The Examiner objected to the drawings as not showing a third metal wire attached to said first and second metal wires to form an annular bridge or a wire rest extending from the third wire. By this Amendment, the claimed subject matter has been amended to state that a pair of third metal wires are attached to the first and second metal wires and that a wire rest extends from the first wire. Therefore, no new drawings are necessary as the claimed subject matter is shown in the current drawings.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 USC 101 as non-statutory subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to use inferential language so that human anatomy is not claimed.

The Examiner objected to claim 3 as "said wire clasp" lacked sufficient antecedent basis. The dependency of claim 3 has been changed to claim 2 to provide antecedent basis. In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 as unclear whether a third metal wire forms an annular bridge. As mentioned previously, the claims have been amended to state that a pair of third metal wires are connected to the first and second metal wires to form an annular bridge.


The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,725,230 (Harima). The Examiner stated that Harima discloses a first metal wire 11, a second metal wire 12, a third metal wire 13 and wire rest 15. Reconsideration of this rejection, in view of the amendments to the claims, is respectfully requested. The rests 15 of Harima are formed from the terminal end of the first, second and third wires, 11, 12, 13, as disclosed in column 2, lines 60-64. Claim 1 now recites that the wire rest extends from the first wire and is spaced from the end of the first wire. This relationship of the wire rest to the first wire is not disclosed by Harima. In addition, new claims 5 and 6 further

define the L-shape of the wire rest, specifying that the first section extends from the first wire and a second section extends from the first section towards the third wire. New claims 7-10 specify that the retainer has a second wire rest.

The claims, as amended, are allowable. Favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited. If any issues remain and the Examiner believes a telephone conversation would resolve such issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

No fees are due and owing, but the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

by 
Christopher J. McDonald
Reg. 41,533

November 8, 2004

HOFFMAN, WASSON & GITLER, P.C.
2461 South Clark Street
Suite 522 - Crystal Center 2
Arlington, VA 22202
(703) 415-0100

Attorney's Docket: A-7942.AMA/bh